

Woman Survives Northville Stabbing

A 61-year-old Westland woman is resting comfortably in St. Mary Hospital this week-end following extensive emergency surgery after she was stabbed in the back with a paring knife by a fellow employe at the Northville State Hospital.

Mrs. Bernadine Stanley, an employe at the hospital since 1955 and presently a dining room supervisor, was stabbed

after disciplining an employe prior to the noon lunch period last Tuesday.

Mrs. Stanley, a widow, has three daughters living in California and a stepson in Royal Oak. The stepson asked that Mrs. Stanley's address be withheld until police arrest a woman sought in the stabbing and now a fugitive.

Michigan State Police from the Redford Post, after con-

ducting an investigation, obtained a warrant for the arrest of Mrs. Mamie Weatherspoon, 205 Garfield, Detroit.

THE WARRANT was issued by Judge Dunbar Davis of 35th District Court.

Sister Mary Calasantia, assistant administrator of St. Mary Hospital, believes "Mrs. Stanley's 'guardian angel' was watching over her."

In describing the emergency operation, Sister Calasantia

Calasantia said, "the blade of the knife stopped one-quarter inch from the patient's spinal cord."

According to Sister Calasantia, if the knife had been plunged that tiny fraction more into Mrs. Stanley's back, the blade possibly would have severed her spinal cord and left her paralyzed.

In describing the emergency operation, Sister Calasantia

recounted how the "doctors moved in very slowly" in the surgical procedure aimed at removing the knife blade which was lodged in Mrs. Stanley's back.

"THEY WERE very happy to discover the blade had stopped just short of the patient's spinal column," said Sister Calasantia.

"Fortunately", the sister said, "the blade penetrated

non-vital sections of the body."

Dr. Richard Budd, superintendent of the Northville hospital, said the stabbing incident happened at about 11 a.m. while Mrs. Stanley was in the dining area supervising work.

"She was engaged in sending an employe home in a matter over a work dispute," said Dr. Budd.

According to Dr. Budd, when

Mrs. Stanley turned away to leave, Mrs. Weatherspoon allegedly stabbed her in the back.

"Mrs. Weatherspoon apparently fled during the resulting confusion."

DR. BUDD said the hospital is conducting its own investigation into the stabbing incident.

Detective Francis Pryby,

of the Redford Post of the Michigan State Police, is in charge of the investigation.

He said an attempt was made to arrest Mrs. Weatherspoon Thursday after the receipt of the warrant from Judge Davis.

"We couldn't locate her at the Detroit address," Det. Pryby said. "I hope she turns herself in, for we'll eventually run her down."

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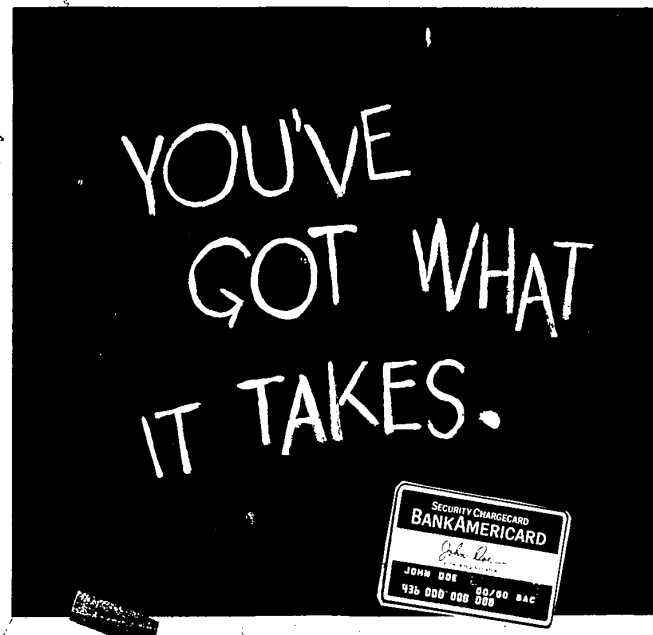
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